

Docket No: ICKINGER
Appl. No: 10/689,555

REMARKS

The last Office Action of August 25, 2005 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been canceled. Claims 2, 4, and 7 have been amended. Claims 2-11 remain in this application.

Claims 1, 8, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,533,972 to Stirn in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,658,600 to Okada et al.

Claims 2-7, 10, and 11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

To expedite prosecution, Applicant has canceled claim 1 and rewritten claims 2, 4, and 7 in independent form by including all of the limitations of claim 1 and any intervening claims. Claims 2, 4, and 7 are therefore allowable.

Claims 8 and 9 now depend from allowable amended claim 7 and are therefore also allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the

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Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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